



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: June 20, 2003

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release:

FIRE AT WILDLIFE REFUGE BURNS 150 ACRES, THREATENS HOMES

Date/Time of Incident: June 20, 2003, 2:50 p.m.

Type of Emergency: Grass Fire

Location: Bobell Drive & Snowy Egret Way

Incident Number: 064838

Elk Grove, CA – Fire sparked this afternoon along a stretch of the Stonelake National Wildlife Refuge in south Sacramento County, burning approximately 150 acres. Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department crews were dispatched at 2:50 p.m. after multiple calls were received from the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS 9-1-1 dispatch center reporting a grass fire near new home construction in the Stonelake subdivision, East of Interstate 5 and South of Elk Grove Blvd.

First arriving crews reported a working grass fire moving from the Southwest toward a levee and new homes just North of the wildlife refuge. Elk Grove Battalion Chief John Michelini arrived first on the scene at 2:58 p.m. and “fought fire with fire” by igniting backfires to divert the blaze away from homes. As the first grass units arrived on scene, water was added to the fight and priority was placed on structure protection. Three additional grass units and three additional engines were added to the incident just after 3:00 p.m. Metro Copter 1 from Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District also responded to aid with operations. Water tenders from Wilton and Elk Grove were also added to the call for additional water supplies.

Approximately 30 homes along Snowy Egret Way were threatened during the incident, however none sustained any damages. The fire was contained at 4:16 p.m. and crews remain on scene at this hour “mopping up.” Elk Grove fire investigators also remain on scene at this hour working to determine the cause of the fire. No cause has yet been determined, however, investigators are concentrating their efforts in an area due East of Northbound Interstate 5, which may be the point of origin.

This is one of many grass fires that Elk Grove firefighters expect to fight over the coming summer months. Home and property owners are urged to assist with reducing the fire risk this season by abating weeds and maintaining at least 30 feet of defensible space around their homes. Strategies to create these spaces include planting greenbelts and using non-combustible ground cover. Contact your local fire department for more information on keeping your home and your loved ones fire safe this summer.

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“Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing, Parks, Recreation, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services”

Incident Commander: Battalion Chief John Michelini
Number of Grass Units: 5
Number of Engines: 4
Water Tenders: 2
Special Equipment: Copter 1
Number of Firefighters: 40

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